#### **BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT**

Principal Loan Date Maturity Loan No Call Collateral (COURT Offices Italians 1,000,080,00 12-14-1999 12-14-2019 0130001775 2300 7394 1009)

References in the shaded area are for Lender's use only and do not limit the applicability of this docume Any item above containing "\*\*\* has been omitted due to text length limitation.

Borrower: ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY (TIN: 37-0343720)

1004 STATE ST

LAWRENCEVILLE. IL 62439

Lender: Community Bank & Trust, NA

Olney Branch 240 E Chestnut St P 0 Box 700 Olney, IL 62450 (616) 3954676

THIS BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT dated December 14, 1999, **is made** and executed between ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY ("Borrower") end Community Bank & Trust, NA ("Lender") on the **following** terms and conditions. Borrower has received prior commercial loans from Lender or has applied to Lender for a commercial loan or loans or other financial accommodations, including those which may be described on any exhibit or schedule **attached** to **this** Agreement ("Loan"). Borrower understands and agrees that: (A) in granting, renewing, or extending any Loan, Lender Is relying upon Borrower's **representations**, warranties, and **agreements** es set forth in **this** Agreement, and **(B)** all such Loans shall be and remain Subject to the terms and **conditions** of this Agreement.

TERM. This Agreement shell be effective as of December 14, 1999, and shall continue in full force and effect until such time as all of Borrower's Loans in favor of Lender have been paid in full, in principal, interest, costs, expenses. attorneys' fees, and other lees and charges, or until December 14, 2019.

Collateral Records. Borrower does now, and et all times hereafter shall, keep correct and accurate records of the Collateral, all of which records shall be available to Lender or Lender's representative upon demand for inspection and copying et any reasonable time. The above is an accurate and complete list of all locations et which Borrower keeps or maintains business records concerning Borrower's collateral.

Collateral Schedul es. Concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Agreement, Borrower shall execute and deliver to Lender schedules of in form and substance satisfactory to the Lender. Thereafter supplemental schedules shall be delivered according to the following schedule:

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO EACH ADVANCE. Lender's obligation to make the initial Advance and each subsequent Advance under this Agreement Shall be subject to the fulfillment to Lender's satisfaction of all of the conditions set forth in this Agreement and in the Related Documents.

Loan Documents. Borrower shall provide to Lender the following documents for the Loan: (1) the Note; (2) Security Agreements granting to Lender security interests in the Collateral; (3) financing statements perfecting Lender's Security Interests: (4) evidence of insurance as required below; (5) together with all such Related Documents es Lender may require for the Loan; all in form and substance satisfactory to Lender and Lender's counsel.

**Borrower's** Authorization. Borrower shall have provided in form and substance satisfactory to Lender properly certified resolutions, duly authorizing the execution and delivery of this Agreement. the Note and the Related Documents. In addition, Borrower shall have provided such other resolutions, authorizations, documents and instruments es Lender or its counsel, may require.

Payment of Fees and Expenses. Borrower shall have paid to Lender all fees, charges, and other expenses which are then due and payable as specified in this Agreement or any Related Document.

Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement, in the Related Documents. and in any document or certificate delivered to Lender under this Agreement are true and correct.

No Event of Default. There shall not exist all the time of any Advance a condition which would constitute an Event of Default under this Agreement or under any Related Document.

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES. Borrower represents and warrants to Lender, as of the date of this Agreement, as of the date of each disbursement of loan proceeds, as of the date of any renewal. extension or modification of any Loan, and et all times any Indebtedness exists:

Organization. Borrower is a corporation for profit which is, and et all times shall be, duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois. Borrower is duly authorized to transact business in all other states in which Borrower is doing business, having obtained all necessary filings, governmental licenses and approvals for each state in which Borrower is doing business. Specifically, Borrower is, and at all limes shall be, duly qualified as a foreign corporation in all states in which the failure to so qualify would have a material adverse effect on its business or financial condition. Borrower has the full power and authority to own its properties and to transact the business in which it is presently engaged or presently proposes to engage. Borrower maintains an office et 1004 STATE ST, LAWRENCEVILLE, IL 62439. Unless Borrower has designated otherwise in writing, the principal office is the office a: which Borrower keeps its books and records including its records concerning the Collateral. Borrower will notify Lender of any change in the location of Borrower's principal office. Borrower shall do all things necessary to preserve and to keep in full force and effect its existence, rights and privileges, and shall comply with all regulations, rules, ordinances, statutes, orders and decrees of any governmental or quasi-governmental authority or court applicable to Borrower and Borrower's business activities.

Assumed Business Names. Borrower has filed or recorded all documents or filings required by law relating to all assumed business names used by Borrower. Excluding the name of Borrower, the following is a complete list of all assumed business names under which Borrower does business: None.

Authorization. Borrower's execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and all the Related Documents have been duly authorized by ail necessary action by Borrower and do no, conflict with, result in a violation of, or constitute a default under (1) any provision of Borrower's articles of incorporation or organization, or bylaws, or any agreement or other instrument binding upon Borrower or (2) any law, governmental regulation, court decree, or order applicable to Borrower or to Borrower's properties.

**Financial Information.** Each of Borrower's financial statements supplied to Lender truly and completely disclosed Borrower's financial condition es of the date of the statement, and there has been no material adverse change in **Borrower's** financial condition subsequent to the date of the most **recent** financial statement supplied to Lendei. Borrower has no material contingent obligation? except es disclosed in such financial statements.

Legal Effect. This Agreement constitutes and any instrument or agreement Borrower is required to give under this Agreement when delivered will constitute, legal, valid, and binding obligations of Borrower enforceable against Borrower in accordance with their respective terms.

Hazardous Substances. Except es disclosed to and acknowledged by Lender in writing, Borrower represents and warrants that: (1) During the period of Borrower's ownership of Borrower's Collateral, there has been no use, generation, manufacture, storage, treatment, disposal, release or threatened release of any Hazardous Substance by any person on, under, about or from any of the Collateral. (2) Borrower has no knowledge of, or reason to believe that there has been (a) any breach or violation of any Environmental Laws; (b) any use, generation, manufacture, storage, treatment. disposal, release or threatened release of any Hazardous Substance on, under, about or from the Collateral by any prior owners or occupants of any of the Collateral; or (c) any actual or threatened litigation or claims of any kind by any person relating to such matters. (3) Neither Borrower nor any tenant, contractor, agent or other authorized user of any of the Collateral shall use, generate, manufacture, store, treat. dispose of or release any Hazardous Substance on, under, about or from any of the Collateral shall use, generate, manufacture, store, treat. or or release any Hazardous Substance on, under, about or from any of the Collateral and any such activity shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, including without limitation all Environmental Laws. Borrower authorizes Lender and its agents to enter upon the Collateral to make such inspections and tests as Lender may deem appropriate to determine compliance of the Collateral with this section of the Agreement. Any inspections or tests made by Lender shall be a, Borrower's expense and for Lender's purposes only and shell not be Construed to create any responsibility or liability on the part of Lender to Borrower to to any other person. The representations and warranties contained herein are based on Borrower's due diligence in investigating the Collateral for hazardous waste and hazardous substances. Borrower hereby

Litigation and Claims. No litigation, claim, investigation, administrative proceeding or similar action (including those for unpaid taxes) against Borrower is pending or threatened, and no other event has occurred which may materially adversely affect Borrower's financial condition or properties, other than litigation. claims, or other events, if any, that have been disclosed to and acknowledged by Lender in writing.

Taxes. To the best Of Borrower's knowledge. all of Borrower's tax returns and reports that are or were required to be filed, have been filed, and ail taxes, assessments and other governmental charges have been paid in full, except those presently being or to be contested by Borrower in good faith in the ordinary course of business and for which adequate reserves have been provided,

### BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT

(Continued)

Information. All information heretofore or contemporaneously herewith furnished by Borrower to Lender for the purposes of or in connection with this Agreement or any transaction contemplated hereby is, and all information hereafter furnished by or on behalf of Borrower b Lender will be, true and accurate in every material respect on the date as of which such information is dated or certified; and none of such information is or will be incomplete by omitting to state any material fact necessary to make such information not misleading.

Lien Priority. Unless otherwise previously disclosed to Lender in writing, Borrower has not entered into or granted any Security Agreements, or permitted the filing or attachment of any Security Interests on or affecting any of the Collateral directly or indirectly securing repayment of Borrower's Loan and Note, that would be prior or that may in any way be superior to Lender's Security Interests and rights in and to such Collateral.

**Binding Effect.** This Agreement, the Note, all Security Agreements (if any), and all Related Documents are binding upon the signers thereof, as well as upon their successors, representatives and assigns, and are legally enforceable in accordance with their respective terms.

AFFIRMATIVE COVENANTS. Borrower covenants and agrees with Lender that, so long as this Agreement remains in effect, Borrower will:

Notices of Claims and Litigation. Promptly inform Lender in writing of (1) all material adverse changes in Borrower's financial condition, and (2) all existing and all threatened litigation, claims, investigations, administrative proceedings or similar actions affecting Borrower or any Guarantor which could materially affect the financial condition of Borrower or the financial condition of eny Guarantor.

Financial Records. Maintain its books and records in accordance with GAAP, applied on a consistent basis, and permit Lender to examine and audit Borrower's books and records at all reasonable times.

Financial Statements. Furnish Lender with the following:

- (1) Annual Statements. As soon as available, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after the end of each fiscal year, Borrower's balance sheet and income statement for the year ended, prepared by Borrower in form satisfactory to Lender.
- (2) **Tax Returns.** As soon as available, but in no event later than thirty (30)  $d = \psi s$  after the applicable filing date for the tax reporting period ended, Federal and other governmental tax returns, prepared by a tax professional satisfactory to Lender.

All financial reports required to be provided under this Agreement shall be prepared in accordance with GAAP, applied on a consistent basis, and certified by Borrower as being true and correct.

Additional Information. Furnish such additional information and statements, as Lender may request from time to time.

Financial Covenants and Ratios. Comply with the following covenants and ratios:

Except as provided above, all computations made to determine compliance with the requirements contained in this paragraph shall be made in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applied on a consistent basis, and certified by Borrower as being true and correct.

Insurance. Maintain fire and other risk insurance, public fiability insurance, and such other insurance as Lender may require with respect to Borrower's properties and operations, in form, amounts, coverages and with insurance companies acceptable to Lender. Borrower, upon request of Lender, will deliver to Lender from time to time the policies or certificates of insurance in form satisfactory to Lender, including stipulations that coverages will not be cancelled or diminished without at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to Lender. Each insurance policy also shall include an endorsement providing that coverage in favor of Lender will not be impaired in any way by any act, omission or default of Borrower or any other person. In connection with all policies covering assets in which Lender holds or is offered a security interest for the Loans, Borrower will provide Lender with such lender's loss payable or other endorsements as Lender may require.

Insurance Reports. Furnish to Lender, upon request of Lender, reports on each existing insurance policy showing such information as Lender may reasonably request, including without limitation the following: (1) the name of the insurer; (2) the risks insured; (3) the amount of the policy; (4) the properties insured; (5) the then current property values on the basis of which insurance has been obtained, and the manner of determining those values; and (6) the expiration date of the policy. In addition, upon request of Lender (however not more often than annually), Borrower will have an independent appraiser satisfactory to Lender determine, as applicable, the actual cash value or replacement cost of any Collateral. The cost of such appraisal shall be paid by Borrower.

Other Agreements. Comply with all terms and conditions of all other agreements, whether now or hereafter existing, between Borrower and any other party and notify Lender immediately in writing of any default in connection with any other such agreements.

Loan Proceeds. Use all Loan proceeds solely for Borrower's business operations, unless specifically consented to the contrary by Lender in writing.

Taxes, Charges and Liens. Pay and discharge when due all of its indebtedness and obligations, including without limitation all assessments, taxes, governmental charges, levies and liens, of every kind and nature, imposed upon Borrower or its properties, income, or profits, prior to the date on which penalties would attach, and all lawful claims that, if unpaid, might become a lien or charge upon any of Borrower's properties, income, or profits.

Performance. Perform and comply, in a timely manner, with all terms, conditions, and provisions set forth in this Agreement, in the Related Documents, and in all other instruments and agreements between Borrower and Lender. Borrower shall notify Lender immediately in writing of any default in connection with any agreement.

**Operations.** Maintain executive and management personnel with substantially the same qualifications and experience as the present executive and management personnel; provide written notice to Lender of any change in executive and management personnel; conduct its business affairs in executive and prudent manner.

Compliance with Governmental Requirements. Comply with all laws, ordinances, and regulations, now or hereafter in effect, of all governmental authorities applicable to the conduct of Borrower's properties, businesses and operations, and to the "se or occupancy of the Collateral, including without limitation, the Americans With Disabilities Act. Borrower may contest in good faith any such law, ordinance, or regulation and withhold compliance during any proceeding, including appropriate appeals, so long as Borrower has notified Lender in writing prior to doing so and so long es, in Lender's sole opinion, Lender's interests in the Collateral are not jeopardized. Lender may require Borrower to post adequate security or a surety bond, reasonably satisfactory b Lender, to protect Lender's interest.

**Inspection.** Permit employees or agents of Lender at any reasonable time to inspect any and all Collateral for the Loan or Loans and Borrower's other properties and to examine or audit Borrower's books, accounts, and records and to make copies and memoranda of Borrower's books, accounts, and records. If Borrower now or at any time hereafter maintains any records (including without limitation computer generated records and computer software programs for the generation of such records) in the possession of a third party, Borrower, upon request of Lender, shall notify such  $p \ni nq$  to permit Lender free access to such records at all reasonable times and to provide Lender with copies of  $\ni nq$  records it way request, all at Borrower's expense.

Compliance Certificates. Unless waived in writing by Lender, provide Lender within thirty (30) days after the end of each fiscal year and at the time of each disbursement of Loan proceeds, with a certificate executed by Borrower's chief financial officer, or other officer or person acceptable to Lender, certifying that the representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement are true and correct as of the date of the certificate and further certifying that, as of the date of the certificate, no Event of Default exists under this Agreement.

Environmental Compliance and Reports. Borrower shall comply in all respects with any and all Environmental Laws; not cause or permit to exist, as a result of an intentional or unintentional action or omission on Borrower's part or on the part of any third party, on property owned and/or occupied by Borrower, any environmental activity where damage may result to the environment, unless such environmental activity is pursuant to and in compliance with the conditions of a permit issued by the appropriate federal, state or local governmental authorities; shall furnish to Borrower promptly and in any event within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof a copy of any notice, summons, lien, citation, directive, letter or other communication from any governmental agency or instrumentality concerning any intentional or unintentional action or omission on Borrower's part in connection with any environmental activity whether or not there is damage to the environment and/or other natural resources.

Additional Assurances. Make, execute and deliver to Lender such promissory notes, mortgages, deeds of trust, security agreements, assignments, financing statements, instruments, documents and other agreements as Lender or its attorneys may reasonably request to evidence and secure the Loans and to perfect all Security Interests.

LENDER'S EXPENDITURES. If any action of proceeding is commenced that would materially affect Lender's interest in the Collateral or if Borrower fails to comply with any provision of this Agreement or any Related Documents, including but not limited b Borrower's failure to discharge or pay when due any amounts Borrower is required to discharge or  $p \ni q$  under this Agreement or  $\ni nq$  Related Documents, Lender on Borrower's behalf may (but shall not be obligated to) take any action that Lender deems appropriate, including but not limited to discharging or paying all taxes, liens, security interests, encumbrances and other claims, at  $\ni nq$  time levied or placed on  $\ni nq$  Collateral and paying all costs for insuring, maintaining and preserving any Collateral All such expenditures incurred or paid by Lender for such purposes will then bear interest at the rate charged under the Note from the date incurred or paid by Lender to the date of repayment by Borrower. All such expenses will become  $\ni$  part of the Indebtedness and, at Lender's option, will (A) be payable on demand; (e) be added to the balance of the Note and be apportioned among and be payable with  $\ni nq$  installment payments to become due during either (1) the term of  $\ni nq$  applicable insurance policy; or (2) the remaining term of the Note; or (C) be treated  $\ni s$  a balloon payment which will be due and payable at the Note's maturity. Any Collateral also will secure payment of these amounts. Such right shall be in

## BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT (Continued)

addition to all other rights and remedies to which Lender may be entitled upon Default.

NEGATIVE COVENANTS. Borrower covenants and agrees with Lender that while this Agreement is in effect, Borrower shall no!, without the prior written consent of Lender:

Indebtedness and Liens. (1) Except for trade debt incurred in the normal course of business and indebtedness to Lender contemplated by this Agreement, create, incur or assume indebtedness for borrowed money, including capital leases, (2) sell, transfer, mortgage. assign, pledge, lease, grant a security interest in, or encumber any of Borrower's assets (except as allowed as Permitted Liens), or (3) sell with recourse any of Borrower's accounts, except to Lander.

Transfer and Liens. Fail to continue to own all of Borrower's assets, except for routine transfers, use or depletion in the ordinary course of Borrower's business. Borrower agrees not to create or grant to any person, except Lender, any lien, security interest, encumbrance. cloud on title, mortgage, pledge or similar interest in any of Borrower's property. even in the ordinary course of Borrower's business. Borrower agrees not to sell, convey, grant, lease. give, contribute. assign, or otherwise transfer any of Borrower's assets, except for sales of inventory or leases of goods in the ordinary course of Borrower's business.

Continuity of Operations. (1) Engage in any business activities substantially different than those in which Borrower is presently engaged, (2) cease operations, liquidate, merge, transfer, acquire or consolidate with any other entity, change its name, dissolve or transfer or self Collateral out of the ordinary course of business, or (3) pay any dividends on Borrower's stock (other than dividends payable in its stock), provided, however that notwithstanding the foregoing, but only so long as no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing or would result from the payment of dividends, if Borrower is a "Subchapter S Corporation" (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended). Borrower may pay cash dividends on its stock to its shareholders from time to time in amounts necessary to enable the shareholders to pay income taxes and make estimated income fax payments to satisfy their liabilities under federal and state law which arise solely from their status as Shareholders of a Subchapter S Corporation because of their ownership of shares of Borrower's stock, or purchase or retire any of Borrower's outstanding shares or alter or amend Borrower's capital structure.

Loans, **Acquisitions** and Guaranties. (1) Loan, invest in or advance money or assets. (2) purchase, create or acquire any interest in any other enterprise or entity. or (3) incur any obligation as surety or guarantor other than in the ordinary course of business.

Cessation of Advances. If Lender has made any commitment to make any Loan to Borrower, whether under this Agreement or under any other agreement, Lender shall have no obligation to make Loan Advances or to disburse Loan proceeds if: (1) Borrower or any Guarantor is in default under the terms of this Agreement or any of the Related Documents or any other agreement that Borrower or any Guarantor has with Lender; (2) Borrower or any Guarantor dies, becomes incompetent or becomes insolvent. files a petition in bankruptcy or similar proceedings, or is adjudged a bankrupt; (3) there occurs a material adverse change in Borrower's financial condition, in the financial condition of any Guarantor, or in the value of any Collateral securing any Loan: or (4) any Guarantor seeks, claims or otherwise attempts to limit, modify or revoke such Guarantor's guaranty of the Loan or any other loan with Lender; or (5) Lender in good faith deems itself insecure. even though no Event of Default shall have occurred.

RIGHT OF SETOFF. Borrower grants to Lender a contractual security interest in all Borrower's accounts with Lender (whether checking. savings, or some other account). This includes all accounts Borrower holds jointly with someone else and all accounts Borrower may open in the future. However, this does not include any IRA or Keogh accounts, or any trust accounts for which the grant of a security interest would be prohibited by law. Borrower authorizes Lender, to the extant permitted by applicable law, to charge or setoff all sums owing on the Indebtedness against any and all such accounts, and, at Lender's option, to administratively freeze all such accounts to allow Lander to protect Lander's charge and setoff rights provided in this paragraph.

DEFAULT. Each of the following shall constitute an Event of Default under this Agreement:

Payment Default. Borrower fails to make any payment when due under the Loan.

Other Defaults. Borrower fails to comply with or to perform any other term. obligation, covenant or condition contained in this Agreement or in any of the Related Documents or to comply with or to perform any term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in any other agreement between Lender and Borrower.

False Statements. Any warranty, representation or statement made or furnished to Lender by Borrower or on Borrower's behalf under this Agreement, the Note, or the Related Documents is false or misleading in any material respect, either now or at the time made or furnished or becomes false or misleading at any time thereafter.

**Insolvency.** The dissolution or termination of Borrower's existence es a going business, the insolvency of Borrower, the appointment of a receiver for any part of Borrower's property, any assignment for the benefit of creditors, any type of creditor workout, or the commencement of any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws by or against Borrower.

Defective **Collateralization.** This Agreement or any of the Related Documents ceases to be in full force and affect (including failure of any collateral document to create a valid and perfected security interest or lien) at any time and for any reason.

Creditor or Forfeiture Proceedings. Commencement of foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings, whether by judicial proceeding, self-help, repossession or any other method, by any creditor of Borrower or by any governmental agency against any collateral securing the Loan. This includes a garnishment of any of Borrower's accounts, including deposit accounts, with Lender. However, this Event of Default shall not apply if there is a good faith dispute by Borrower as to the validity or reasonableness of the claim which is the basis of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and if Borrower gives Lender written notice of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and deposits with Lender monies or a surety bond for the creditor or forfeiture proceeding, in an amount determined by Lender, in its sole discretion, as being an adequate reserve or bond for the dispute.

Events Affecting Guarantor. Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any Guarantor of any of the Indebtedness or any Guarantor dies or becomes incompetent, or revokes or disputes the validity of, or liability under, any Guaranty of the Indebtedness. In the event of a death, Lender. at its option, may, but shall not be required to. permit the Guarantor's estate to assume unconditionally the obligations arising under the guaranty in a manner satisfactory to Lender, and, in doing so, cure any Event of Default.

Change in Ownership. Any change in ownership of twenty-live percent (25%) or more of the common stock of Borrower.

Adverse Change. A material adverse change occurs in Borrower's financial condition, or Lender believes the prospect of payment or performance of the Loan is impaired

Insecurity. Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

Right to Cure. If any default, other than a default on Indebtedness. is curable and **if Borrower** or Grantor, as the case may be, has not been given a notice of a similar default within the preceding twelve (12) months, it may be cured (and no Event of Default will have occurred) if Borrower or Grantor, es the case may be, after receiving written notice from Lender demanding cure of such default: (1) cure the default within **fifteen** (15) days; or (2) if the cure requires more than fifteen (15) days, immediately initiate steps which Lender deems in Lender's sole discretion to be sufficient to cure the default and thereafter continue and complete all reasonable and necessary **steps** sufficient to produce compliance **as soon** as reasonably practical.

EFFECT OF AN EVENT OF DEFAULT. II any Event of Default shall occur. except where otherwise provided in this Agreement or the Related Documents, all commitments and obligations of Lender under this Agreement or the Related Documents or any other agreement immediately will terminate (including any obligation to make further Loan Advances or disbursements), and, at Lender's option, all Indebtedness immediately will become due and payable, all without notice of any kind to Borrower. except that in the case of an Event of Default of the type described in the 'Insolvency' subsection above. such acceleration shall be automatic and not optional. In addition, Borrower shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the Related Documents or available at law, in equity, or otherwise. Except as may be prohibited by applicable law, all of Lender's rights and remedies shall be cumulative and may be exercised singularly or concurrently. Election by Lander to pursue any remedy shall not exclude pursuit of any other remedy, and an election to make expenditures or to take action to perform an obligation of Borrower or of any Grantor shall not affect Lender's right to declare a default and to exercise its rights and remedies.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS. The following miscellaneous provisions are a part of this Agreement:

Amendments. This Agreement, together with any Related Documents, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties as to the matters set forth in this Agreement. No alteration of or amendment to this Agreement shall be **effective** unless given in writing and signed by the party or parties sought to be charged or bound by the alteration or amendment.

Attorneys' Fees; Expenses. Borrower agrees to pay upon demand all of Lender's costs and expanses, including Lender's attorneys' fees and Lander's legal expanses, incurred in connection with the enforcement of this Agreement. Lender may hire or pay someone else to help enforce this Agreement. and Borrower shall pay the costs and expenses of such enforcement. Costs and expenses include Lender's attorneys' fees and legal expenses whether or not there is a lawsuit, including attorneys' fees and legal expenses for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction), appeals, and any anticipated post-judgment collection services. Borrower also shall pay all court costs and such additional fees as may be directed by the court.

Caption Headings. Caption headings in this Agreement are for convenience purposes only and are not to be used to interpret or define the

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provisions of this Agreement.

Consent to Loan Participation. Borrower agrees and consents to Lender's sale or transfer, whether now or later, of one or more participation interests in the Loan to one or more purchasers, whether related or unrelated to Lender. Lender may provide, without \$\pi \text{q}\$ limitation whatsoever, to \$\pi \text{q}\$ one or more purchasers, or potential purchasers, \$\pi \text{q}\$ information or knowledge Lender may have about Borrower or about \$\pi \text{q}\$ under matter relating to the Loan, and Borrower hereby waives \$\pi \text{q}\$ information or knowledge Lender may have about Borrower or about \$\pi \text{q}\$ under the Loan, and Borrower hereby waives \$\pi \text{q}\$ in the Loan and Will have all notices of sale of participation interests, as well as all notices of \$\pi \text{q}\$ repurchase of such participation interests. Borrower also agrees that the purchasers of any such participation interests will be considered as the absolute owners of such interests in the Loan and will have all the rights granted under the participation agreement or agreements governing the sale of such participation interests. Borrower further waives all rights of offset or counterclaim that it may have now or later against Lender or against any purchaser of such a participation interest and unconditionally agrees that either Lender or such purchaser may enforce Borrower's obligation under the Loan irrespective of the failure or insolvency of \$\pi \text{q}\$ holder of \$\pi \text{q}\$ interest in the Loan. Borrower further agrees that the purchaser of any such participation interests may enforce its interests irrespective of any personal claims or defenses that Borrower may have against Lender.

Governing Law. This Agreement will be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with federal law and the laws of the State of Illi nois. This Agreement has been accepted by Lender in the State of Illi nois.

No Walver by Lender. Lender shall not be deemed to have waived any rights under this Agreement unless such waiver is given in writing and signed by Lender. No delay or omission on the part of Lender in exercising  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  right shall operate as a waiver of such right  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial t}$  other right. A waiver by Lender of a provision of this Agreement shall not prejudice or constitute a waiver of Lender's right otherwise to demand strict compliance with that provision or any other provision of this Agreement. No prior waiver by Lender, nor  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  course of dealing between Lender and Borrower, or between Lender and any Grantor, shall constitute a waiver of any of Lender's rights or of  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  of Borrower's or  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  Grantor's, obligations as to any future transactions. Whenever the consent of Lender is required under this Agreement, the granting of such consent  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial t}$  Lender in  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  instance shall not constitute continuing consent to subsequent instances where such consent is required and in all cases such consent may be granted or withheld in the sole discretion of Lender.

Notices. Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be given in writing, and shall be effective when actually delivered, when actually received by telefacsimile (unless otherwise required bq law), when deposited with a nationally recognized overnight courier, or, if mailed, when deposited in the United States mail, as first class, certified or registered mail postage prepaid, directed to the addresses shown near the beginning of this Agreement.  $\Delta nq \ p \Rightarrow nq$  may change its address for notices under this Agreement by giving formal written notice to the other parties, specifying that the purpose of the notice is to change the party's address. For notice purposes, Borrower agrees to keep Lender informed at all times of Borrower's current address. Unless otherwise provided or required by law, if there is more than one Borrower,  $\Rightarrow nq$  notice given by Lender to any Borrower's deemed to be notice given to all Borrowers.

Severability. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  provision of this Agreement b be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial t}$  to any circumstance, that finding shall not make the offending provision illegal, invalid, or unenforceable  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial t}$  to  $\frac{\partial nq}{\partial t}$  other circumstance. If feasible, the offending provision shall be considered modified so that it becomes legal, valid and enforceable. If the offending provision cannot be so modified, it shall be considered deleted from this Agreement. Unless otherwise required by law, the illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

Subsidiaries and Affiliates of Borrower. To the extent the context of any provisions of this Agreement makes it appropriate, including without limitation  $\partial n y$  representation, warranty or covenant, the word "Borrower" as used in this Agreement shall include all of Borrower's subsidiaries and affiliates. Notwithstanding the foregoing however, under no circumstances shall this Agreement be construed to require Lender to make  $\partial n y$  Loan or other financial accommodation to any of Borrower's subsidiaries or affiliates.

Successors and Assigns. All covenants and agreements contained bq or on behalf of Borrower shall bind Borrower's successors and assigns and shall inure to the benefit of Lender, its successors and assigns. Borrower shall not, however, have the right to assign Borrower's rights under this Agreement or  $_{**}\forall$  interest therein, without the prior written consent of Lender.

Survival of Representations and Warranties. Borrower understands and agrees that in extending Loan Advances, Lender is relying on all representations, warranties, and covenants made bq Borrower in this Agreement or in any certificate or other instrument delivered bq Borrower to Lender under this Agreement or the Related Documents. Borrower further agrees that regardless of bq investigation made bq Lender, all such representations, warranties and covenants will survive the extension of Loan Advances and delivery to Lender of the Related Documents, shall be continuing in nature, shall be deemed made and redated bq Borrower at the time each Loan Advance is made, and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as Borrower's Indebtedness shall be paid in full, or until this Agreement shall be terminated in the manner provided above, whichever is the last '0 occur.

Time is of the Essence. Time is of the essence in the performance of this Agreement.

Walve Jury. All parties to this Agreement hereby waive the right to  $\partial nq$  jury trial in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by  $\partial nq$  party against any other party.

**DEFINITIONS.** The following capitalized words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in this Agreement. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all references to dollar amounts shall mean amounts in lawful money of the United States of America. Words and terms used in the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular, as the context may require. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings attributed to such terms in the Uniform Commercial Code. Accounting words and terms not otherwise defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings assigned to them in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as in effect on the date or this Agreement:

Advance. The word "Advance" means a disbursement of Loan funds made, or to be made, to Borrower or on Borrower's behalf on a line of credit or multiple advance basis under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Agreement. The word "Agreement" means this Business Loan Agreement, as this Business Loan Agreement may be amended or modified from time to time, together with all exhibits and schedules attached to this Business Loan Agreement from time to time.

Borrower. The word "Borrower" means ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY and all other persons and entities signing the Note in whatever capacity.

Collateral. The word "Collateral" means all property and assets granted  $\partial s$  collateral security for a Loan, whether real or personal property, whether granted directly or indirectly, whether granted now or in the future, and whether granted in the form of a security interest, mortgage, collateral mortgage, deed of trust, assignment, pledge, chattel mortgage, crop pledge, chattel mortgage, collateral chattel mortgage, chattel trust, factor's lien, equipment trust, conditional sale, trustreceipt, lien, charge, lien or title retention contract, lease or consignment intended  $\partial s$  a security device, or anyother security or lien interest whatsoever, whether created  $\partial q$  law, contract, or otherwise.

Default. The word "Default" means the Default set forth in this Agreement in the section titled "Default".

Environmental Laws. The words "Environmental Laws" mean  $\partial nq$  and all state, federal snd local statutes, regulations and ordinances relating to the protection of human health or the environment, including without limitation the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq. ("CERCLA"), the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-499 ("SARA"), the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. Section 1801, et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 6901, et seq., or other applicable state or federal laws, rules, or regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

Event of Default. The words "Event of Default" mean  $\partial nq$  of the Events of Default set forth in this Agreement in the Default section of this Agreement.

GAAP. The word "GAAP" means generally accepted accounting principles.

Grantor. The word "Grantor" means each and all of the persons or entitles granting a Security Interest in any Collateral for the Loan, including without limitation all Borrowers granting such a Security Interest.

Guarantor. The word "Guarantor" means any guarantor, surety, or accommodation party on any or all of the Loan.

Guaranty. The word "Guaranty" means the guaranty from Guarantor to Lender, including without limitation a guaranty of all or part of the Note.

Indebtedness. The word "Indebtedness" means the indebtedness evidenced by the Note or Related Documents, including all principal and interest together with all other indebtedness and costs and expenses for which Borrower is responsible under this Agreement or under any of the Related Documents. In addition, and without limitation, the term "Indebtedness" includes all amounts identified in the Revolving Line of Credit and Future Advances paragraphs as contained in one or more of the Related Documents.

Lender. The word "Lender" means Community Bank & Trust, NA, its successors and assigns

Loan. The word "Loan" means any and all loans and financial accommodations from Lender to Borrower whether now or hereafter existing, and however evidenced, including without limitation those loans and financial accommodations described herein or described on any exhibit or schedule attached to this Agreement from time to time.

Note. The word "Note" means the Note executed by Borrower In the principal amount of \$1,000,080.00 dated December 14, 1999, together with

#### Page 5

# BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT (Continued)

all renewals of, extensions of, modifications of, refinancings of, consolidations of, and substitutions for the note or credit agreement.

Permitted Liens. The words "Permitted Liens" mean (1) liens and security interests securing Indebtedness owed by Borrower to Lender; (2) liens for taxes. assessments, or similar charges either not ye, due or being contested in good faith; (3) liens of materialmen, mechanics, warehousemen, or carriers, or other like liens arising in the ordinary course of business and securing obligations which are not yet delinquent; (4) purchase money liens or purchase money security interests upon or in any property acquired or held by Borrower in the ordinary course of business to secure indebtedness outstanding on the data of this Agreement or permitted to be incurred under the paragraph of this Agreement titled "Indebtedness and Liens"; (5) liens and security interests which, es of the date of this Agreement, have been disclosed to end approved by the Lender in writing; and (6) those liens and security interests which in the aggregate constitute an immaterial and insignificant monetary amount with respect to the net value of Borrower's assets.

Related Documents. The words "Related Documents" mean all promissory notes, credit agreements, loan agreements, environmental agreements, guaranties, security agreements, mortgages, deeds of trust, security deeds, collateral mortgages, and all other instruments, agreements and documents, whether now or hereafter existing, executed in connection with the Loan.

Security Agreement. The words "Security Agreement" mean and include without limitation any agreements, promises, covenants. arrangements, understandings or other agreements, whether created by law, contract, or otherwise, evidencing, governing, representing, or creating a Security Interest.

Security Interest. The words "Security Interest" mean, without limitation, any and all types of collateral security. present and future, whether in the form of a lien, charge, encumbrance, mortgage, deed of trust, security deed, assignment, pledge, crop pledge, chattel mortgage, collateral chattel mortgage, chattel trust. factor's lien, equipment trust, conditional sale, trust receipt, lien or title retention contract, lease or consignment intended as a security device, or any other security or lien interest whatsoever whether created by law, contract, or otherwise.

BORROWER ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING READ ALL THE PROVISIONS OF **THIS** BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT AND BORROWER AGREES TO ITS TERMS. **THIS** BUSINESS LOAN AGREEMENT IS DATED DECEMBER **14, 1999.** 

ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY
By:  ROGER C AVERY, President of ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY
LENDER:
LENDER.
COMMUNITY SANK &TRUST. NA
X
Authorized Signer

BORROWER:

PROMISSORY NOTE

Principal Loan Date Maturity Loan No Call Collateral Account Office Unitials \$1,000,080.00 12-14-1999 12-14-2019 0130001775 2300 384 809

References in the shaded area are for Lender's use only and do not limit the applicability of this document to a sympatic fair. I an or item.

Any item above containing "\*\*" has been omitted due to text length limitations.

Borrower: ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY (TIN: 37-0343720)

,004 STATE ST

LAWRENCEVILLE, IL 62439

Lender:

Community Sank & Trust, NA Olney Branch 240 E Chestnut St P 0 Box 700 Olney, IL 62450 (616) 395-8676

Principal Amount: \$1,000,080.00 Initial Rate: 8.000%

Date of Note: December 14, 1999

PROMISE TO PAY. ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY ("Borrower") promises to pay to Community Sank & Trust, NA ("Lender"), or order, in lawful money of the United States of America, the principal amount of One Million Eighty & 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000,080.00) or so much es may be outstanding, together with Interest on the unpaid outstanding principal balance of each advance. Interest shall be calculated from the date of each advance until repayment of each advance.

PAYMENT. Borrower will pay this loan on demand. Payment in full is due immediately upon Lender's demand. If no demand is made, Borrower will pay this loan in one payment of all outstanding principal plus all accrued unpaid Interest on December 14, 2019. In addition, Sorrower will pay regular Semi-annual payments of all accrued unpaid interest due as of each payment date, beginning June 14, 2000, with all subsequent Interest payments to be due an the same day of each half-year after that. Unless otherwise agreed or required by applicable law, payments will be applied first to accrued unpaid interest, then to principal, and any remaining amount to any unpaid collection costs and late charges. Interest on this Note is computed on a 365/365 simple interest basis; that is, by applying the ratio of the annual interest rate over the number of days in a year, multiplied by the outstanding principal balance, multiplied by the actual number of days the principal balance is outstanding. Borrower will pay Lender et Lender's address shown above or et such other place es Lender may designate in writing.

VARIABLE INTEREST RATE. The interest rate on this Note is subject to change from time to time based on changes in an independent index which is the Prime Rate as published in the "Money Rates" section of the Wall Street Journal (the "Index"). The Index is not necessarily the lowest rate charged by Lender on its loans. Ii the Index becomes unavailable during the term of this loan, Lender may designate a substitute index after notice to Borrower. Lender will tell Borrower the current Index rate upon Borrower's request. The interest rate change will not occur more often than each year on the anniversary date (the "rate change event"). Borrower understands that Lender may make loans based on other rates es well. The initial rate is based on the Index as of December 14, 1999 which was 6.500% per annum. Initially, the interest rate to be applied to the unpaid principal balance of the Note is (Note Rate). After the first rate change event, the interest rate to be applied to the unpaid principal balance of this Note will be at a rate of 0.256 percentage points under the Index. NOTICE: Under no circumstances will the interest rate on this Note be more than the maximum rate allowed by applicable law.

PREPAYMENT; MINIMUM INTEREST CHARGE, Borrower agrees that all loan fees and other prepaid finance charges are earned fully es of the date of the loan and will not be subject to refund upon early payment (whether voluntary or es a result of default), except as otherwise required by law. In any event, even upon full prepayment of this Note, Borrower understands that Lender is entitled to a minimum interest charge of \$50.00. Other than Borrower's obligation to pay any minimum interest charge, Sorrower may pay without penalty all or a portion of the amount owed earlier than it is due. Early payments will not. unless agreed to by Lender in writing, relieve Borrower of Borrower's obligation to continue to make payments of accrued unpaid interest. Rather, early payments will reduce the principal balance due. Borrower agrees not to Send Lender payments marked "paid in full", "without recourse". Or similar language. If Borrower sends such a payment, Lender may accept it without losing any of Lender's rights under this Note, and Borrower will remain obligated to pay any further amount owed to Lender. All written communications concerning disputed amounts, including any check or other payment instrument that indicates that the payment constitutes "payment in full" of the amount owed or that is tendered with other conditions or limitations or as full satisfaction of a disputed amount must be mailed or delivered to: Community Sank & Trust, NA, PO Box 700, 240 E Chestnut St Olney. IL 62450.

LATE CHARGE. If a payment is 10 days or more late Sorrower will be charged 5.600% of the regularly scheduled payment or \$10.00, whichever is greater.

INTEREST AFTER DEFAULT. Upon default, including failure to pay upon final maturity. Lender, et its option, may, if permitted under applicable law, increase the variable interest rate on this Note 3.000 percentage points. The interest rate will not exceed the maximum rate permitted by applicable law.

DEFAULT. Each of the lollowing Shall constitute an event of default ("Event of Default') under this Note:

Payment Default. Borrower fails to make any payment when due under this Note.

Other Defaults. Borrower fails to comply with or to perform any other term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in this Note or in any of the related documents or to comply with or to perform any term. obligation, covenant or condition contained in any other agreement between Lender and Borrower.

False Statements. Any warranty, representation or statement made or furnished to Lender by Borrower or on Borrower's behalf under this Note or the related documents is false or misleading in any material respect, either now or et the time made or furnished or becomes false or misleading et any time thereafter.

Insolvency. The dissolution or termination of Borrower's existence as a going business, the insolvency of Borrower. the appointment of a receiver for any part of Borrower's properly, any assignment for the benefit of creditors, any type of creditor workout, or the commencement of any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws by or against Borrower.

Creditor or Forfeiture Proceedings. Commencement of foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings, whether by judicial proceeding, self-help, repossession or any other method, by any creditor of Borrower or by any governmental agency against any collateral securing the loan. This includes a garnishment of any of Borrower's accounts, including deposit accounts, with Lender. However, this Event of Default shall not apply if there is a good faith dispute by Borrower es to the validity or reasonableness of the claim which is the basis of the creditor of forfeiture proceeding and if Borrower gives Lender written notice of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and deposits with Lender monies or a surety bond for the creditor or forfeiture proceeding, in an amount determined by Lender, in its sole discretion, as being en adequate reserve or bond for the dispute.

Events Affecting Guarantor. Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any guarantor, endorser, surety, or accommodation party of any of the indebtedness or any guarantor, endorser, surety or accommodation party dies or becomes incompetent, or revokes of disputes the validity of, or liability under, any guaranty of the indebtedness In the event of a death, Lender, et its option, may. but shall not be required to, permit the guarantor's estate to assume unconditionally the obligations arising under the guaranty in a manner satisfactory to Lender, and, in doing so, cure any Event of Default.

Change In Ownership. Any change in ownership of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the common stock of Borrower.

Adverse Change. A material adverse change **OCCUTS** in Borrower's financial condition, or Lender believes the prospect of payment or performance of this, Note is Impaired.

Insecurity. Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

Cure **Provisions**. If any default, other than a default in payment, is curable and if Borrower has not been given a notice of a breach of the same provision of this Note within the preceding twelve (12) months, it may be cured (and no event of default will have occurred) if Borrower, after receiving written notice from Lender demanding cure of such default. (1) cures the default within fifteen (15) days; or (2) if the cure requires more than fifteen (15) days, immediately initiates steps which Lender deems in Lender's sole discretion to be sufficient to cure the default and thereafter continues and completes all reasonable and necessary steps sufficient to produce compliance as soon es reasonably practical.

LENDER'S RIGHTS. Upon default. Lender may declare the entire unpaid principal balance on this Note and all accrued unpaid interest immediately due, and then Borrower will pay that amount.

ATTORNEYS' FEES; EXPENSES. Lender may hire or pay someone else to help collect the loan if Borrower does not pay. Borrower also will pay Lender that amount. This includes, subject to any limits under applicable law. Lender's attorneys' fees and Lender's legal expenses, whether or not there is a lawsuit, including attorneys' fees, expenses for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction). and appeals. If not prohibited by applicable law, Borrower also will pay any court costs, in addition to all other sums provided by law.

JURY WAIVER, Lender and Sorrower hereby waive the right to any jury trial in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by either Lender or Borrower against the other.

GOVERNING LAW. This Note will be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with federal law and the laws of the State of Illinois. This Note has been accepted by Lender in the State of Illinois.

CONFESSION OF JUDGMENT. Borrower hereby irrevocably authorizes and empowers any attorney-et-law to appear in any court of record and to

#### PROMISSORY NOTE

(Continued)

confess judgment against Borrower for the unpaid amount of this Note as evidenced *by* an affidavit signed *by* an officer of Lender setting 'onb the amount then due, attorneys' 'eas plus costs of suit, and to release all errors, and waive all rights of appeal. If a copy of this Note, verified by an affidavit, shall have been filed in the proceeding, it will not be necessary to file the original as a warrant of attorney. Borrower waives the right to any stay of execution and the benefit of all exemption laws now or hereafter in effect. No single exercise of the foregoing warrant and power to confess judgment will be deemed to exhaust the power, whether or not any such exercise shall be held *by* any court to be invalid, voidable, or void; but the power will continue undiminished and may be exercised from time to time as Lender may elect until all amounts owing on this Note have been paid in full. Borrower hereby waives and releases any and all claims or causes of action which Borrower might have against any attourney acting under the terms of authority which Borrower has granted herein arising out of or connected with the confession of judgement hereunder.

RIGHT OF SETOF F. Borrower grants to Lender a contractual security interest in all Borrower's accounts with Lender (whether checking, savings, or some other account). This includes all accounts Borrower holds jointly with someone else and all accounts Borrower may open in the future. However, this does not include  $\frac{\partial n\eta}{\partial x}$  IRA or Keogh accounts, or  $\frac{\partial n\eta}{\partial x}$  trust accounts for which the grant of a security interest would be prohibited by law. Borrower authorizes Lender, to the extent permitted by applicable 'sw, b charge or setoff all sums owing on the Indebtedness against envi and all such accounts, end, at Lender's option, to administratively freeze all such accounts 'e allow Lender to protect Lender's charge and setoff rights provided in this paragraph.

COLLATERAL. Borrower acknowledges this Note is secured by, in addition to any other collateral, a Mortgage or Deed of Trust to a trustee in favor of Lender on real property located in Lawrence, Richland, and Jasper County, State of Illinois, all the terms and conditions of which are hereby incorporated and made a part of this Note.

LINE OF CREDIT. This Note evidences a revolving line of credit. Advances under this Note, as well as directions for payment from Borrower's accounts, May be requested orally or in writing by Borrower or by an authorized person. Lender May, but "and not, require that all oral requests be confirmed in writing. Borrower agrees to be liable for all sums either: (A) advanced in accordance with the instructions of an authorized person or (B) credited to any of Borrower's accounts with Lender. The unpaid principal balance owing on this Note at any time May be evidenced by endorsements on this Note or by Lender's internal records, including daily computer print-outs. Lender will have no obligation to advance funds under this Note if:

(A) Borrower or any guarantor is in default under the terms of this Note or any agreement that Borrower or any guarantor has with Lender, including any agreement made in connection with the signing of this Note; (B) Borrower or any guarantor ceases doing business or is insolvent; (C) any guarantor seeks, claims of otherwise attempts b limit, modify or revoke such guarantor's guarantee of this Note or any other loan with Lender; (D) Borrower has applied 'unds provided pursuant b this Note for purposes other than those authorized by Lender; or (E) Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

PRIOR NOTE. Refinance of #01-20002841.

GENERAL PROVISIONS. This Note and is payable on demand. The inclusion of specific default provisions or rights of Lender shall not preclude Lender's right to declare payment of this Note on its demand. Lender may delay or forgo enforcing any of its rights or remedies under this Note without losing them. Borrower and any other person who signs, guarantees or endorses this Note, to the extent allowed by law, waive presentment, demand for payment, and notice of dishonor. Upon any change in the terms of this Note, and unless otherwise expressly stated in writing, no party who signs this Note, whether as maker, guarantor, accommodation maker or endorser, shall be released from liability. All such parties agree that Lender may renew or extend (repeatedly and for any length of time) this loan or release any party or guarantor or collateral; or impair, fall to realize upon or perfect Lender's security interest in the collateral; and take any other action deemed necessary by Lender without the consent of or notice to anyone. All such parties also agree that Lender may modify this loan without the consent of or notice to anyone other than the party with whom the modification is made. The obligations under this Note are joint and several.

ILLINOIS INSURANCE NOTICE. Unless Borrower provides Lender with evidence of the insurance coverage required by Borrower's agreement with Lender, Lender may purchase insurance at Borrower's expense to protect Lender's interests in the collateral. This insurance may, but need not, protect Borrower's interests. The coverage that Lender purchases may not pay any claim that Borrower makes or any claim that is made against Borrower in connection with the collateral. Borrower may later cancel any insurance purchased by Lender, but only after providing Lender with evidence that Borrower has obtained insurance as required by their agreement. If Lender purchases insurance for the collateral, Borrower will be responsible for the costs of that insurance, including interest and any other charges Lender may impose in connection with the placement of the insurance, until the effective date of the cancellation or expiration of the insurance. The costs of the insurance may be added to Borrower's total outstanding balance or obligation. The costs of the insurance may be more than the cost of insurance Borrower may be able to obtain on Borrower's OW...

PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS NOTE, BORROWER READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS NOTE, INCLUDING THE VARIABLE INTEREST RATE PROVISIONS. BORROWER AGREES TO THE TERMS OF THE NOTE.

BORROWER ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF  $\Lambda$  COMPLETED  $\epsilon$ OPA OF THIS PROMISSORY NOTE.

BORROWER:

**ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY** 

Ву:

ROGER E AVERY, President of ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY